

WHAT IS CAUSING MARYLAND FIRES!

Five Year Total of \$15,796,199 Shown to be Largely Preventable. Public Cooperation Necessary.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters through its Actuarial Bureau has just completed a five year analysis of the fire losses for Maryland. These figures, now for the first time made public, reveal in a startling way the price which is paid by the State for public ignorance and carelessness in the matter of fire hazard. They are drawn from an exhaustive study of approximately 19,000 different fires actually reported upon by the insurance companies, and to the figures presented it is estimated that 25 per cent. should be added to cover fires not reported to the Actuarial Bureau.

The causes are classified into three groups, of which twelve are listed as strictly preventable with a total of \$3,743,982 or 23.7 per cent. of the whole; nine are designated partly preventable and total \$4,904,613 or 31 per cent. of the whole, and beyond these are the unknown causes totalling \$7,148,504 or 45.3 per cent. These unknown causes may be considered as probably largely preventable, since if known, they would be distributed among the other causes.

Examining more closely, we find that while Exposure meaning the spread of fires already started, takes the lead with a total loss of \$1,656,514, the largest original cause of fire is that of Electricity with its toll of \$1,006,028. Maryland apparently contains an army of careless smokers for in respect to Matches-Smoking this caused a loss of \$874,503. Next after Matches-Smoking, Sparks from Machinery \$874,509 was the most destructive fire cause, followed by Defective Chimneys and Flues \$736,292.

The complete table for five years totals and yearly averages by causes is as follows:

Strictly Preventable Causes:	
Defective chimneys and flues	\$ 736,292
Fireworks, firecrackers, etc.	24,350
Gas, natural and artificial	59,126
Hot ashes and coal, open fires	151,666
Ignition of hot grease, oil, tar, wax, asphalt, etc.	37,777
Matches-smoking	874,503
Open lights	601,742
Petroleum and its products	366,049
Rubbish and litter	60,225
Sparks on roofs	159,497
Steam and hot water pipes	1,206
Stoves, furnaces, boilers and their pipes	670,669
Total	\$3,743,982

(Note: In each of the above cases, preliminary inspection would have shown the element of danger, which then might have been easily remedied)

Partly Preventable Causes:	
Electricity	\$1,006,028
Explosions	65,413
Exposure (including conflagrations)	1,656,514
Sparks from machinery	874,509
Incendiarism	163,259
Lightning	403,248
Miscellaneous known causes	149,647
Sparks from combustion	542,265
Spontaneous combustion	542,265
Total	\$4,904,613

(Note: It is estimated that at least half of the loss occasioned by electricity, sparks from fires, and spontaneous combustion was preventable, and that all the other causes had some degree of preventability.)

Unknown Causes (probably largely preventable).....\$7,148,504

Maryland's losses from fire and the astonishing totals quoted above should, as stated, be increased about 25 per cent to cover losses not reported to the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Thus it will be seen that this state during the years 1915 to 1919, inclusive, paid \$15,796,199, or a yearly average of \$3,159,239 for the indulgence of its costly habit of playing with fire. If the huge five years total of \$15,796,199 could have been used instead of wasted, it would have built 3,000 houses at \$5,000 apiece (sufficient to furnish homes for 15,000 people, or more than the population of Annapolis), or it would build 1500 miles of good macadam roads at \$10,000 per mile.

A study of such figures indicates the need of public education in regard to fire prevention. It must be realized that property destroyed by fire represents an utter and irretrievable loss to Society as a whole, while the inexcusable toll in human life and suffering can hardly be computed.

CLEO MUST BE GOOD

"Country Girl" Who Lured Chicago Men, Gets Ten Years to Life.

Chicago, March 3.—Cleopatra Hurtzman, "the innocent country girl lured" by a criminal gang, started today for the pen to waste her charms "maybe for years and maybe forever," for she was given from 10 years to life. Ten men, responsible and law-abiding, appeared against her and each told the same story.

Cleopatra had confronted them with tears and told them of the troubles of a "country girl" in a big city. They accompanied her "home," which was always approached thru a dark passage. Then a deadly arm reached out of the gloom and smote the samaritan on the head with a club. When he recovered consciousness all he had was his clothes.

It is stated by the State's Attorney that 30 men who had been felled and robbed did not appear. Her husband Kurt Hurtzman, swung the club. He went up for life.

100 Dead of Black Smallpox.

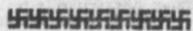
Vera Cruz.—An epidemic of black smallpox has broken out on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and more than 100 deaths have occurred. This information was contained in a private telegram received here.

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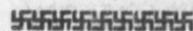
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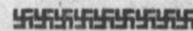


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WED WHILE HYPNOTIZED!

Why Wealthy Hamburg Girl Asks Annulment.

A high court will be asked next week to decide whether a woman is entitled to dissolution of her marriage on the ground that she entered upon it under hypnotic influence and therefore was not conscious of what she was doing. The claimant is a millionaire in Iowa right, being the orphan daughter of a wealthy Hamburg family. Her husband was formerly an engineer in the German Navy.

Last year the couple met in Berlin society. None of their friends noticed that they were on especially intimate terms. Her relatives were, therefore, amazed when early in January they received a newspaper announcement of her marriage.

Several weeks passing without news, an uncle eventually came to Berlin and met his niece. She appeared absent-minded, spoke indistinctly and, then saying she had to go to her bankers on urgent business, tried to slip away.

Tactfully, however, the uncle persuaded her to take lunch with him, and in conversation he found she knew nothing about her husband except his name, but mentioned that he was fond of making hypnotic experiments.

As the conversation proceeded the niece seemed suddenly aroused from her state of mental numbness and exclaimed as if she herself were surprised, "Really, the idea of marrying him had never occurred to me!"

The immediate sequel was that she

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went to Hamburg with her uncle and has remained there ever since, appearing to regard with intense aversion any idea of returning to her band.

WHITE REPUBLICANS IN CON-STERNATION.

R. C. Barnum, Colored, Is the Thorne—Is Nominee on Republican Ticket for Council in Hagerstown.

Andrew K. Coffman was put in the field as an independent Republican candidate for councilman in the Fifth Ward, of Hagerstown, against Richard C. Barnum, colored, who was nominated on Saturday night when a delegation of negroes stampeded the primaries and succeeded in forcing Barnum across.

Barnum is the first negro to be

nominated for the council here in 29 years. Efforts to disqualify him on the plea that he has not been a resident of the ward five years failed today, and Barnum says that he is in the fight to the finish. Republican leaders immediately got busy and had a petition circulated, making Coffman an independent nominee.

Efforts will be made to oust Barnum from the ticket, but the negroes insist they will carry the case to court in the event of any action to disqualify their candidate.

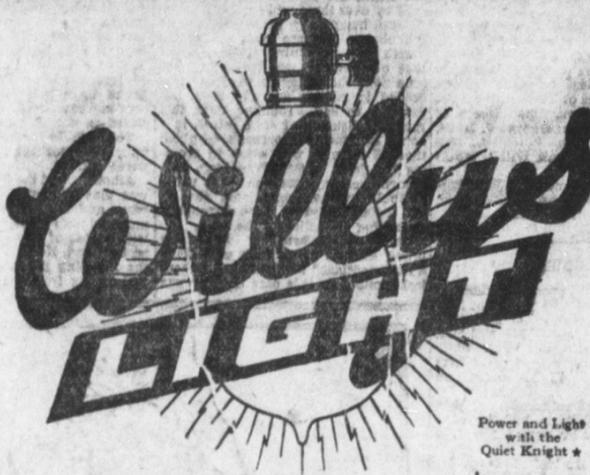
A meeting was held by negro workers and plans were worked out for a campaign to elect Barnum.

The Fifth Ward is overwhelmingly Republican and has a big negro vote. The Republicans organization believes, however, that the independent candidate will defeat Barnum.

AKI was going well at the primary over which Frank Alsip was presiding. There was the usual small number of white Republicans present and the name of City Councilman George B. Alexander was presented for renomination when the negroes, 40 in number, appeared unexpectedly and exploded their bomb.

5,459,004 Whites in N. Y.

Washington.—The 1920 population of New York City, announced as 5,620,048, consists of 5,459,004 whites, or 97.1 per cent.; 153,088 negroes, or 2.1 per cent., and 7,556 all other races such as Chinese, Japanese and Indians; the Census Bureau announced. The 1920 population of Boston, announced as 748,060, consists of 730,486 whites or 97.7 per cent.; 16,362 negroes, or 2.2 per cent., and 1,212 all other races.



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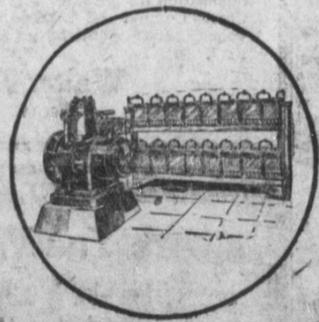
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